

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<https://oversight.house.gov>

MEMORANDUM

April 13, 2023

To: Members of the Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs

From: Committee Staff

Re: Hearing on “Oversight of the Office of Refugee Resettlement’s Unaccompanied Alien Children Program.”

On **Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 10:00 AM ET in 2247 Rayburn House Office Building**, the Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs will host a hearing titled “Oversight of the Office of Refugee Resettlement’s Unaccompanied Alien Children Program.”

I. BACKGROUND:

The Office of Refugee Resettlement is required by law to promptly place Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC) referred to its custody by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in the least restrictive setting that is in the best interest of the child, including by discharging UAC to sponsors deemed capable of providing for the child’s physical and mental well-being. However, reports indicate that ORR has prioritized expedient releases of UAC to sponsors to the detriment of their safety in some instances. These reports cite evidence that many UAC have been exploited by sponsors and forced to work illegal, full-time jobs in hazardous conditions to pay off smuggling debts to cartels.

II. HEARING PURPOSE:

This hearing will examine the efforts of the Office of Refugee Resettlement to ensure adequate care and safe discharge of Unaccompanied Alien Children into the care of appropriately vetted sponsors.

III. WITNESS:

Robin Dunn Marcos
Director
Office of Refugee Resettlement